

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1993

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

Gourmet gadgets make chores fun

As I write this column, the nutty, mouth-watering aroma of roasting garlic fills the house. I haven't yet decided to what use I will put my soft baked garlic cloves. I have simply taken a fresh whole bulb, cut the top off to expose the cloves, and placed it in a terra cotta baker. I sprinkled the bulb with salt and pepper and a little thyme, and drizzled it with olive oil. Now it is slowly baking to a butter-like consistency. The garlic baker is the newest entry in an amazing melange of gadgetry that lines the shelves of gourmet kitchen stores. Mine is from Williams-Sonoma at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. The mini baker holds one bulb (\$9) and the larger baker holds up to eight (\$17.50). Sauces 'n' Tosses in Bloomfield Plaza, 6684 Telegraph, sells a 4-bulb baker for \$15.



Baking tempers the pungency of garlic and brings out its sweeter flavor — perfect for spreading on a hunk of hot French bread or adding to your homemade spaghetti sauce. What else is new in the world of cuisine contrivances? Pizza stones (\$19) are hot sellers at Williams-Sonoma as are tortilla makers (\$50). The tortilla maker looks like a waffle maker with a flat griddle, and is simple to use, especially if you purchase premixes of corn and flour tortillas. Clay bakers are enjoying renewed popularity and the 6 1/2 quart size will easily accommodate your Thanksgiving turkey (\$75). Just soak the baker in water for 15 minutes and the bird will steam to moist perfection. These versatile bakers also turn out a dynamite loaf of bread. Smaller sizes are \$32.50 and \$45. The folks at Williams-Sonoma will gladly fill the gift container with spices, oils and cookbooks, creating a unique gift basket.

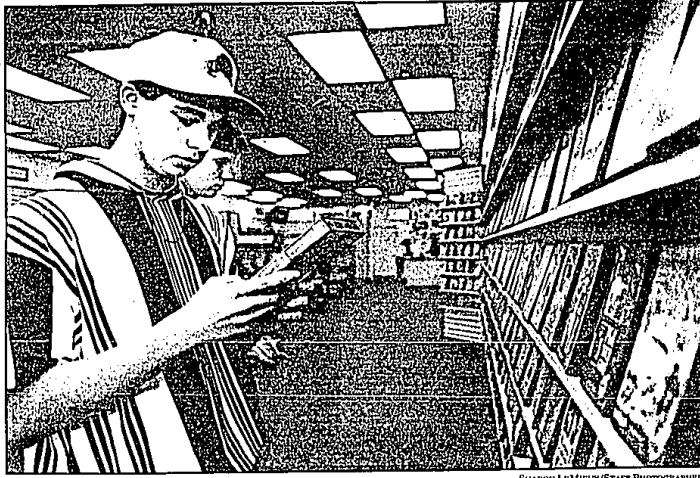
Gadgets galore
A favorite W-S gadget? The bulbous mushroom-shaped wooden garlic press (\$6.50). It's great for arthritics because it fits perfectly in the palm of the hand. Sauces 'n' Tosses is a veritable toy shop for kitchen gadget lovers. Among the latest inventions are a battery-operated Parmesan cheese grater than can be passed around the table for an instant fresh pasta topping and a handy pineapple corer that works like a corkscrew, easily slicing a fresh pineapple while leaving the shell intact (\$12.50). Have you ever discovered anything that would completely eliminate the odor of onion from your hands? Believe it or not, an amazing new product called NOnion really works (\$7.95). It is made from a special metal alloy that reacts with the oil of an onion and lifts it from the surface of the skin. Just rub your hands with the metal bar under cool running water. "Fishermen in Alaska product works on all stubborn food odors. If you're tired of your two-liter Coke going flat after a few days, try SodaMatic (\$5.50). It works like a seltzer dispenser and will preserve your fizz for up to two months. Moulinex has come out with an electric can opener that lifts lids off at the seal (\$39.95). The bladeless design leaves no sharp edges, opens all can sizes and shapes and can be wall mounted.

"I have been waiting for this for so long," said Gladys Kolb of Birmingham, who happily purchased her can opener at Sauces 'n' Tosses. "It keeps food from going into contamination." Just think, no jagged edges and no fishing for sinking dusty lids in the baked beans.

Banana split
Kids love to "help" in the kitchen and they are particularly adept at tossing together a fruit salad. To add a little fun to their routine chopping and scooping, surprise them with a Chiquita banana slicer (\$3.50). They'll love the bright yellow banana shape that renders perfect slices in one quick motion.

Finally, no well-equipped kitchen or cook should be without designer rubber gloves from France. These fully lined, heavy duty gloves come complete with polka-dot or striped ruffles. The ultimate in fashion and function.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. You can leave her column ideas at 953-2047, mailbox 1889, or fax them to her at 644-1314.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trading times: Video game players like James McIntosh, 15, and Ryan Bowen, 15, of Farmington Hills, are discovering that FuncoLand stores will buy their old video games and resell them at discounted prices. Customers also appreciate the chance to try out game titles before they buy on game systems set up in the stores.

Malls debate smoking ban



BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

If Molly Giles of Birmingham couldn't have a cigarette between stores at the mall, she insists she'd take her business to the mainstreets.

"Hey, if I couldn't smoke at the mall, I'd have to go out to my car to light up. And if I walked to my car, I might as well get in and drive away," she said, snuffing out a cigarette at Summit Place Mall last week. "A smoking ban at the malls would hurt business. Look, I had my cigarette break, now I'll go back to shopping. If I had to go outside, I'd be gone. I'd do my shopping in downtown Birmingham."

Mall managers in the area hear her. They also hear the complaints of shoppers who don't want to breathe the smoke of others when they take their shopping break.

"I really wish the malls were smoke free," said Linda Weinstein of West Bloomfield after a morning walk at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. "I'm here walking for fitness, but I wonder if the air I'm huffing and puffing is clean and healthy enough."

The solution? At Oakland Mall in Troy, Summit Place Mall in Waterford, and Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn, separate benches areas have recently been designated by signs as "Smoke Free," while others are designated for smokers.

"We're listening," said Joy Powell, manager of the Oakland Mall. "We think we've met the problem by separating the rest areas. The issue is in general discussion throughout the country now, we're still listening."

At the Westland Mall, spokeswoman Claudia Frederick said there was no official smoking policy, although

management has had customers comment on both sides of the issue.

"A smoking ban is the kind of thing that will be happening more and more in malls around the country. But, here at Westland, we're debating whether it's a pro or con, based on our customers' needs," she said. "The publicity about the ill effects of second hand smoke really sparked the controversy."

Hudson's has completely banned smoking in all its stores, except for smoking sections in their restaurants. Most stores have such a ban, dictated by fire concerns.

At the Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, manager Philip Morosco said "The Gathering Space and center court are no smoking zones, but smoking is allowed in other common areas of the mall."

"We try to keep the air replacement system within the mall operating at a velocity strong enough to clear away standing smoke all through the day," he said. "A mall smoking ban is principally in shopping centers where a city or state law has been passed ban-

See SMOKING, 9A

Coats steal the show for Hudson's

BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

A sold-out crowd attended Hudson's "Challenging the Future: An Evening for Women," at the Grand Manor of Fairlane in Dearborn last week.

They came to preview the latest fall fashions and hear New York Times health columnist Jane Brody discuss her best.

The event, one of two that Hudson's presents for the public each year, featured dinner, make-overs,

Brody's motivational speech, comments on the upcoming fashion season by Beth Adamich of Mirabella magazine, a visit by designer Eileen Fisher, and of course, a fashion show of 117 complete outfits.

The audience was attentive, though quiet, throughout the show, until the "Great Coats" segment was introduced. Here, three rounds of applause greeted the models as they filed the runway in red military coats, accented with gold buttons and black trim in leather and velvet. Definitely, the

hit of the evening.

"I didn't care for too much in the show because I thought the fashions were too trendy," said Amelia Boland of Lathrup Village, who has attended the event for the last three years.

Her friend Nina Sarkisian of Troy agreed. "We're a more mature audience," she laughed. "Maybe the younger gals will like these styles more. The ruf-

See SHOW, 9A

Funco is video resale

BY SUSAN DeMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

The way to introduce your children to the commodities market is to take them shopping at a FuncoLand store, where the principles of supply and demand rule the used video game market.

FuncoLand's concept is deceptively simple: Purchase previously played video games and equipment from the public and resell them at a profit.

Products are priced using a sophisticated pricing model based on supply and demand, which is updated monthly by the company's corporate staff and published in a guide available in each store.

Kids and parents enter FuncoLand with brown paper bags full of old, no-longer-played Nintendo and Sega game cartridges, and exit with either a credit for different merchandise or the assurance of a FuncoLand check in the mail. The company advertises more than 1,500 previously owned video game titles at up to 50 percent off their original price, but that savings diminishes to about 20 percent if the game is hot — popular and just released.

"I drove to this FuncoLand at Summit Crossing from Holly with my son after seeing their ads on television," said Holly Olinik. "We have a few old games here in this bag, but according to FuncoLand's price list, I will only get \$4 to \$8 for them because I guess they're not in too much demand any more."

Olinik gave the price list for other used games her son might want to buy from FuncoLand and remarked that she wished the savings were greater.

"In some cases the prices are just \$5 to \$10 less than at Target or Kmart, but I guess that's better than full price."

Here's an example of a FuncoLand deal: John Westler, 15, of Bloomfield Township wants to sell his old "Batman Returns" Nintendo game. FuncoLand will give him \$18 for the game and resell it for \$42 this month. "Batman Returns" is selling for \$49.99 new at Target.

All used games and equipment come with a 90-day warranty.

"FuncoLand stores give the public a formalized way to trade and recirculate the huge existing base of video games," said president David Pomije of Eden Prairie, Minn. "Customers can try any game out before they buy it on systems set up in the stores. There is a players club customers can join, which includes a subscription to Game Informer magazine and a mail-order catalog."

Pomije acknowledged competition from "mom and pop shops" that also resell used video games, but set forth his company's strategy that has already helped sales reach \$20 million since FuncoLand's debut in 1990.

"In three years we have grown to 66 stores in five metropolitan markets," he boasted. "When we enter a market, as we've done in metro Detroit with 12 stores in just one year, we do a rap-

See GAMES, 9A

MONDAY, AUG. 30

EATERY OPENS

"The Dinersty" has set the table for shoppers in the space formerly known as Cloverdale Diner. The restaurant is the second for Ann Arbor-based Rhine Kwok. Specialties include regional fare from the Far East, with great attention to spices. Take-out service available.
447 Forest Ave., Plymouth
593-3332

WARDROBE SEMINAR

Tickets are on sale for the Jones of New York wardrobe seminar at Hudson's Career Department Friday, Sept. 10, at 12:30 p.m. in Oakland Mall and Saturday, Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m. at Twelve Oaks Mall. Guests receive a complimentary box meal. Reservations required.
443-6328

FREE WRAPPING

Any item purchased at Fairlane, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Gale Hallmark, Upper level near Penney's. Proof of purchase required, so save receipt. Choice of ribbons and paper.
Fairlane Town Center, Michigan/Southfield
593-3545

PUPPET SHOW

"The Little Mermaid," Mondays-Fridays 7 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m., Sundays 1 and 3 p.m. Free to shoppers. Puppet theater located near main entrance.
Meadowbrook Village Mall, Adams/Walton
375-9451

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

FALL CONTEST

Entry blanks in center court. Through Sept. 6. Grand prize: Disney World vacation for two. Second grand prize: Two round-trip tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. Other prizes posted. Customers with receipts totaling \$150 or more will receive signature mail coffee cup and the coaster. While supplies last. Redeemable at management office.
Laurel Park Place, Six Mile/Newburgh
462-1100

SENIOR BUS TRIP

Mature Mingle's Club of Bloomfield will bus senior citizens from their center to Twelve Oaks Mall for a shopping trip. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trips repeated first Wednesday of each month to different malls. (Oct. 6 to Oakland Mall in Troy.) Call Kathy Squire to register.
Twelve Oaks, Twelve Mile/Novi
644-6161

FAMILY NIGHT

Rio Tin Tin K-9 dog guest stars at center court. Will demonstrate training tips and show-dog tricks. Paws gratis to all. Bring your camera. Show times: 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Prize drawing after each performance. Mail shops offer specials and participating restaurants offer 99-cent kids meals from 4-9 p.m.
Lakeland Mall, M-59/Schoenherr
247-1744

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2

INFORMAL MODELING

Stuge & Co. Restaurant hosts informal modeling for the lunch crowd noon-2 p.m. Thursdays. Fashions from The Boardwalk shops will be featured. Today, Marguerite stars.
The Boardwalk, Orchard Lake, n. of 14 Mile
855-5400

SAURDAY, SEPT. 4

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Most malls will remain open for business during the holiday weekend, including Monday. Call your favorite mall for specifics.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 5

STORY HOUR

Andre of WNCN radio reads "Jimmy's Box and The Big Splash Birthday Bash" and "Oh No!" 1 p.m. Center Court. Kids meals ninety-nine cents at participating mail restaurants. Book tokens redeemable toward merchandise discounts.
Fairlane Mall, Southfield/Michigan
593-3330

Information about special events and promotions for inclusion in this calendar can be sent to Susan DeMaggio, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009 or faxed to 644-1314. The deadline is Wednesday noon for the following Monday's edition.